

SAFETY ON THE LINE

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"Tis far better to call from the parking lot than from the ditch." – J.W.

So, Who's Driving? Distracted driving has become an increasingly dangerous trend. Research indicates that driver distraction is a contributing factor in an estimated 4,000 to 8,000 traffic accidents EACH DAY. We're talking about those drivers that are:



- Reading the newspaper
- Reading a book
- Talking on the cell phone
- Putting on makeup
- Eating, drinking or smoking
- Dealing with the kids

Sound like you? Try this idea instead of distractedly driving a 4000 lb. missile down the road. Just get up 15-30 minutes early. This should allow you plenty of time to read the newspaper or book while eating your breakfast. This extra time will also allow you to deal with child-rearing concerns before hitting the road and putting yourself and others at risk. As for cell phones ... just turn them off and let your voice mail cover it.

Dryer Safety

There were 14,300 clothes dryer fires in U.S. homes in 1998, resulting in 19 deaths, 312 injuries and \$67.7 million in property damage. Here are a few safety tips to keep you fire safe:

- Do not operate a dryer without a lint filter
- Clean lint filters before or after each use
- Plug the dryer into a suitable outlet
- Turn the dryer off when leaving the home
- Keep the dryer area clear of combustibles
- Have a professional regularly inspect gas dryers for connection line leaks

Wake-Up Call for Drowsy Drivers

As Americans become more sleep-deprived, the number of crashes on our roadways involving drowsy drivers is increasing. Fatigue contributes to 100,000 crashes each year. Fatigue also slows reaction times, decreases awareness, impairs judgment and can lead to falling asleep at the wheel.

Taking over-the-counter or prescription meds, or drinking alcohol in conjunction with fatigue is a recipe for disaster.

Just don't do it. If you are tired, pull over and rest. Find a well lit area, pull completely off the road and take a 15-45 minute nap.

LAST ISSUES QUESTION - *Why did the chicken cross the road?* Because he could. He looked both ways, heeded oncoming traffic & crossed at an appropriate crosswalk.



Do you have questions, comments, or an article you would like to submit? Contact Marguerite at 867-8520, fax number 867-1120, mail code SA-E or e-mail them at "Safety on the Line" found in your global address list. Safety on the Line is also on the Web at <http://sotl.ksc.nasa.gov>.